



Tennessee Farm Facts

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In Cooperation with Tennessee Department of Agriculture

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Tennessee Farmers Express Early Plans for 2010

According to a recent survey of producers conducted by the Tennessee Field Office of USDA's National Agricultural Statistics Service, farmers have given a preliminary snapshot of their planting intentions for this upcoming season. Soybean acreage is projected at 1.43 million acres, down 140,000 acres from last year's 1.57 million acre crop. Winter wheat acreage is forecast to decrease to 290,000 acres, down 140,000 acres from the previous year. Cotton and corn acreage are expected to absorb most of the slack for the decline in wheat and soybean acreage. Debra Kenerson, Director, explained that the survey results are a snapshot as of March 1, and are subject to change. "This survey is our first look at what farmers intend to grow during the upcoming crop year. However, economic changes and weather conditions both play major roles in the final outcome." The March 1 survey showed the following results: **corn** acreage, up 6 percent from last year to 710,000 acres; **soybeans**, down 9 percent to 1,430,000 acres; **cotton** intentions, 380,000 acres, up 27 percent from last year's planted acreage of 300,000; **winter wheat** seedings, at 290,000 acres, down 140,000 acres or 33 percent from the previous year; and **hay** acreage, down slightly to 1.90 million acres.

Planted Acreage, Tennessee and United States, 2008-2009 and Intended 2010

Crop	2008	2009	2010 ¹	2010/2009	2008	2009	2010 ¹	2010/2009
Tennessee				United States				
	1,000 Acres		Percent		1,000 Acres		Percent	
Corn	690	670	710	106	85,982	86,482	88,798	103
Cotton, all	285	300	380	127	9,471	9,149	10,505	115
Hay ²	1,870	1,915	1,900	99	60,152	59,755	60,460	101
Soybeans	1,490	1,570	1,430	91	75,718	77,451	78,098	101
Tobacco, all ²	21.8	21.6	22.3	103	354.49	354.14	334.02	94
Dark fired-cured	7.2	6.4	6.0	94	18.60	16.15	15.65	97
Burley	13.0	14.0	15.0	107	97.50	101.90	97.80	96
Dark air-cured	1.6	1.2	1.3	108	8.50	5.80	5.80	100
Winter Wheat	620	430	290	67	46,307	43,311	37,698	87

¹ Intended plantings for 2010. ² Acres harvested.

U.S. Summary

Corn growers intend to plant 88.8 million acres of corn for all purposes in 2010, up 3 percent from both last year and 2008. Expected acreage is up in many States due to reduced winter wheat acreage and expectations of improved net returns. Acreage increases of 300,000 or more are expected in Illinois, Kansas, Missouri, and Ohio. The largest decreases are expected in Iowa, down 200,000 acres, and Texas, down 150,000 acres.

Soybean producers intend to plant 78.1 million acres in 2010, up less than 1 percent from last year. If realized, the United States planted area will be the largest on record. Acreage increases of 100,000 or more are expected in Illinois, Iowa, Kansas, Nebraska, North Dakota, and South Dakota. The largest decreases are expected in Georgia and North Carolina,

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both 150,000 acres less than 2009. If intentions are realized, the planted acreage in Kansas, North Dakota, and Pennsylvania will be the largest on record.

All cotton plantings for 2010 are expected to total 10.5 million acres, 15 percent above last year. Upland acreage is expected to total 10.3 million acres, up 15 percent. Growers intend to increase planted area in all States except Arkansas, Kansas, and Louisiana. The largest acreage increase is in Texas where producers intend to plant 600,000 acres more acres of upland cotton than in 2009. American-Pima cotton growers intend to increase their plantings by 34 percent from 2009 to 190,000 acres. California producers intend to plant 165,000 acres, up 39 percent from last year.

All wheat planted area is estimated at 53.8 million acres, down 9 percent from 2009. The 2010 winter wheat planted area, at 37.7 million acres, is 13 percent below last year but up 2 percent from the previous estimate. Of this total, about 28.3 million acres are Hard Red Winter, 6.0 million acres are Soft Red Winter, and 3.4 million acres are White Winter. Area planted to other spring wheat for 2010 is estimated at 13.9 million acres, up 5 percent from 2009. Of this total, about 13.3 million acres are Hard Red Spring wheat. Durum planted area for 2010 is estimated at 2.22 million acres, down 13 percent from the previous year.

U.S. all **tobacco** area for harvest in 2010 is expected to be 334,020 acres, down 6 percent from 2009 and 2008. Expected decreases in flue-cured, burley, and fire-cured tobacco will offset increases in cigar type tobacco.

U.S. Hog Inventory down 3 Percent

U.S. inventory of all hogs and pigs on March 1, 2010 was 64.0 million head. This was down 3 percent from March 1, 2009 and down 2 percent from December 1, 2009. Breeding inventory, at 5.76 million head, was down 4 percent from last year and down 2 percent from the previous quarter. Market hog inventory, at 58.2 million head, was down 3 percent from last year and down 2 percent from last quarter.

The December 2009-February 2010 pig crop, at 27.9 million head, was down 2 percent from 2009 and down 2 percent from 2008. Sows farrowing during this period totaled 2.90 million head, down 4 percent from 2009 and down 6 percent from 2008. The sows farrowed during this quarter represented 50 percent of the breeding herd. The average pigs saved per litter was a record high 9.61 for the December 2009-February 2010 period, compared to 9.48 last year. Pigs saved per litter by size of operation ranged from 7.40 for operations with 1-99 hogs and pigs to 9.70 for operations with more than 5,000 hogs and pigs.

U.S. hog producers intend to have 2.90 million sows farrow during the March-May 2010 quarter, down 4 percent from the actual farrowings during the same period in 2009 and down 5 percent from 2008. Intended farrowings for June-August 2010, at 2.89 million sows, are down 2 percent from 2009 and down 6 percent from 2008. The total number of hogs under contract owned by operations with over 5,000 head, but raised by contractees, accounted for 44 percent of the total U.S. hog inventory, down from 45 percent last year.

Prices Received by Farmers: Tennessee & U.S., March 2010 with Comparisons

Commodity	Unit	Tennessee			United States		
		March 2009	February ¹ 2010	March ² 2010	March 2009	February ¹ 2010	March ² 2010

Dollars Per Unit

Field Crops

Corn	bu.	3.82	3.97	3.85	3.85	3.55	3.49
Cotton Lint	lb.	.392	.658	.693 ³	.404	.650	.639 ³
Soybeans	bu.	9.19	9.47	9.40	9.12	9.41	9.16
Winter Wheat	bu.	4.60	4.77	n/a	5.27	4.52	4.20

Livestock

All Beef Cattle	cwt.	67.20	74.00	75.20	79.10	85.50	88.80
Steers & Heifers	cwt.	84.00	92.00	94.00	84.00	90.50	93.90
Cows	cwt.	42.00	47.00	47.00	44.40	51.60	52.40
Calves	cwt.	94.00	102.00	106.00	106.00	112.00	113.00

¹ Entire month. ² Mid-month. ³ Based on sales during the first half of month. n/a = not available.

Grain Stocks: Tennessee and U.S., March 1, 2009 & 2010 with Comparisons

	Tennessee			United States		
	Mar 1, 2009	Dec 1, 2009	Mar 1, 2010	Mar 1, 2009	Dec 1, 2009	Mar 1, 2010
1,000 Bushels						
On-Farm Stocks ¹						
Corn				4,085,000	7,425,000	4,548,000
Wheat				280,400	558,800	348,200
Soybeans				656,500	1,229,500	609,200
Grain Sorghum				32,200	48,000	23,680
Oats				30,200	43,000	30,900
Off-Farm Stocks ²						
Corn	11,965	17,610	15,036	2,869,145	3,497,460	3,145,940
Wheat	10,086	12,989	11,306	759,664	1,222,891	1,004,133
Soybeans	2,543	8,904	1,835	645,289	1,109,050	660,806
Grain Sorghum	483	³	483	173,650	202,733	151,581
Oats	38	³	40	65,250	67,629	67,126
Total Stocks ¹						
Corn				6,954,145	10,922,460	7,693,940
Wheat				1,040,064	1,781,691	1,352,333
Soybeans				1,301,789	2,338,550	1,270,006
Grain Sorghum				205,850	250,733	175,261
Oats				95,450	110,629	98,026

¹ Estimates for Tennessee on-farm stocks are not published. ² Includes stocks at mills, elevators, warehouses, terminals, and processors. ³ Not published to avoid disclosures of individual operations.

Layers and Eggs: Layers on Hand and Eggs Produced by Selected States and United States, During February 2009 & 2010

Selected States	Table Egg Layers in Flocks 30,000 or more		All Layers ¹		Eggs per 100 for All Layers ¹	
	2009	2010	2009	2010	2009	2010
Thousands			Number			
Alabama	1,415	1,292	9,332	9,309	1,725	1,687
Arkansas	3,495	3,117	12,863	12,241	1,765	1,789
Georgia	9,360	8,875	18,214	17,628	1,905	1,974
North Carolina	5,279	6,043	12,454	13,274	1,951	1,876
All Other States ²	259,670	257,135	288,205	286,245	2,056	2,072
United States	279,219	276,462	341,068	339,697	2,024	2,038

¹ Includes all layers and eggs produced in both table egg and hatching egg flocks regardless of size. ² Tennessee is included in all other states total.

Livestock Slaughter¹: Tennessee & United States, February 2009 & 2010

Species	Number Slaughtered		Total Live Weight		Average Live Weight	
	2009	2010	2009	2010	2009	2010
	1,000 Head		1,000 Pounds		Pounds	
Tennessee						
Cattle	2.8	3.2	2,401	2,719	885	872
Calves	0.1	²	36	²	460	²
Hogs	49.9	53.0	22,776	23,406	459	442
Sheep & lambs	1.0	0.9	73	74	76	81
United States						
Cattle	2,528.5	2,547.6	3,300,790	3,261,015	1,310	1,285
Calves	74.1	74.0	18,728	18,040	257	247
Hogs	8,918.9	8,691.2	2,420,596	2,347,274	272	270
Sheep & lambs	179.5	178.4	25,403	24,794	142	139

¹ Includes slaughter under Federal inspection and other commercial slaughter (excludes farm slaughter). ² Data not printed to avoid disclosing individual operations.

TDA Now Accepting Proposals for Specialty Crop Block Grants

Funded through the Food, Conservation and Energy Act of 2008

The Tennessee Department of Agriculture is now accepting proposals for the USDA Specialty Crop Block Grant Program. These funds will help enhance the competitiveness of specialty crops, which are fruits and vegetables, dried fruit, tree nuts and nursery crops including floriculture. Administered by TDA, the grants are authorized through the federal Food, Conservation and Energy Act of 2008. “As demand for locally grown fruits and vegetables and other products increases, specialty crops are growing in importance and will continue to have a significant impact on Tennessee’s farm economy,” said state Agriculture Commissioner Ken Givens. “These grants will fund innovation, research and training that will help keep our farms viable.” Proposals are divided into three main categories:

Good Ag Practices/Food Safety/Traceability

This category includes, but is not limited to training, specialized equipment and facilities needed to incorporate GAPs, GMPs and/or specialty crop traceability.

Farmers Markets/Wholesale Produce

This category includes, but is not limited to, cool storage, distribution and handling needs. A priority is establishing wholesale produce auctions.

Innovative Specialty Crop Projects

This category includes, but is not limited to, on-farm needs that enhance marketing, production, packing and/or distribution of specialty crops.

Tennessee is eligible for more than \$517,000 in federal Specialty Crop Block Grant Program funds to support grower education, infrastructure needs, food safety and marketing. Universities, institutions, cooperatives, producers, industry or community-based organizations may submit a proposal for project funding for up to \$50,000.

Eligible projects must be forward thinking and demonstrate a positive impact on Tennessee agriculture and demonstrate significant potential for increasing farm income through the improvement or expansion of farm or agribusiness operations involving the production of specialty crop products. Demonstration of long-term benefits is also required. Proposals must be delivered to TDA no later than May 21. Proposal requirements and other information can be found at <http://www.tn.gov/agriculture/marketing/produce.html>. Once proposals are received, a panel will review and rank them according to the criteria provided. Applicants who submit a project will be notified by June 18 if TDA intends to present the project to USDA for funding. For more information regarding the USDA Specialty Crop Block Grant Program, contact Rob Beets at 615-837-5160 or Robert.Beets@TN.gov.
